



OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



June 14, 2018

GOM 2018-19

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: **2018-19 California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Update**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces updates to the Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program (Chafee Program). The Commission ran the 2018-19 award process on May 14, 2018, which provided 2,915 students with a preliminary award offer.

2018-19 Chafee Award Eligibility

- To be considered for a Chafee Program grant, a Chafee applicant (new and renewal) must submit the 2018-19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA).
- New Chafee applicants must:
 - Submit a Chafee Application – The 2018-19 Chafee Application is available on the Commission's website at <https://chafee.csac.ca.gov/>.
 - Have their foster care eligibility confirmed through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The paper form is only necessary if CDSS does not provide the Foster Youth Eligibility information electronically.
 - Not have reached 22 years of age by July 1 of the award year.
- Chafee applicants are not subject to the same federal and state financial aid eligibility requirements. Chafee students are **not** required to:
 - Have a social security number
 - Meet Selective Service requirements
 - Be clear of loan default or grant over-award
 - Have a high school diploma
 - Meet the Ability-to-Benefit requirements
- A student must attend either of the following:
 - A qualifying institution that is eligible for participation in the Cal Grant Program.
 - An institution that is not located in California with a three-year cohort default rate that is less than 15.5 percent and a graduation rate greater than 30 percent.
- Students will be notified if their school of attendance is not an eligible institution.

2018-19 Chafee Roster Processing

- Institutions are currently able to view their Chafee roster.
- Beginning July 23, 2018, institutions will be able to certify student eligibility based on the following:
 - Must be enrolled at least half-time
 - Must meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress policy
 - Must have financial need (excluding student loans or Federal Work-Study)
- In order to provide awards to additional eligible students, beginning August 20, 2018, any student with a preliminary Chafee award that has not been certified as eligible four weeks after the award date, will automatically become ineligible. The student's award status will change from "Preliminary Award Offered" (Awarded on Payment Roster) to "Not Awarded – Ineligible" (Not Awarded on Payment Roster) with the ineligible reason indicated. A separate notification will be sent to students to inform them as well.

2017-18 Chafee Award Processing

- 2017-18 awards and payments will continue to be processed through September 2018.
- Students can apply for 2017-18 Chafee awards until September 18, 2018.
- The last payment for 2017-18 Chafee grants will be processed on September 24, 2018.

Applicants with Missing Information

- Applicants with missing information cannot be processed. To identify applicants who are missing information, institutions can utilize the *Chafee Status Roster by School* on Web Grants at "Report Download," within the Data Transfer Menu.

Chafee Workgroup and Webinar

- The next Chafee Workgroup/Webinar is tentatively scheduled for:

Wednesday, August 16, 2018 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

- Additional Workgroup/Webinar information will be sent late July.

Additional information on the Chafee Program is available in the [Chafee Coordinator's Guide](#).

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153 (Option 2)
- E-mail: chafee@csac.ca.gov

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